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possible to get from the book a coherent biographical sketch of an eccentric and vivid personality because of the author's inconsequential arrangement of material, hasty paragraphs and crabbed style. The inadequate index makes the work almost useless as a reference book for students of history; and the numerous bibliographical inaccuracies throw suspicion on its value as "a contribution to the history of the press." Yet information is there and plenty of it—for students as patient in research as Mr. Kitchin himself.

A more reliable bibliography of L'Estrange is that given by Professor Trent in the *Cambridge History of English Literature*, volume x, pages 463-466. A full list of corrections and additions to Mr. Kitchin's bibliography is to be found in the New York *Nation*, volume xcvi, pages 31-32 and 54-55.

HARRIET FOX WHICHER.

URBANA, ILLINOIS.

Responsible Government in the Dominions. By ARTHUR BERRIEDALE KEITH. Oxford, The Clarendon Press, 1912.—Three volumes: li, xi, xii, 1670 pp.

Mr. Keith's three volumes are the expansion of an earlier work which appeared under the same title in 1909. Quite evidently they are the result of long familiarity with the colonial field and of painstaking investigation. Although the author has made good use of *Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies*, he has, during the period which that justly celebrated work covers, drawn on sources of information which Todd did not use; and in considering the development of the last thirty years—a period of peculiar difficulty in view of the slow transformation of the self-governing colonies into a "galaxy of independent nations," as Laurier phrased it—he had no general treatise to rely upon for guidance. The industry required for the collection of so much varied information as Mr. Keith presents deserves particular recognition. He has made it possible to gain a fairly adequate knowledge of British colonial institutions without making a search through the special literature of each colony.

Mr. Keith has given us a systematic treatise, not for popular use, but for use mainly as a work of reference. Precedent and practice are set forth with an abundant detail, and from the standpoint of a lawyer. The list of cases cited occupies fifteen pages; the list of acts, eighteen. There are occasions, one must confess, when the details are a little too obtrusive, when the book falls somewhat short of that pyramid form

which Lord Acton's conversation is said to have taken—the point clear and distinct above, and below it “the vast subjacent mass of knowledge.” The plan of the work is also open to criticism at some points. It may be said in a general way that the first volume discusses the central executive and legislature of the Dominions, that the second sketches the distribution of powers between central and local governments, and that the third deals with the relations of the colonies with the mother country. There is no apparent excuse therefore for dealing with the formation of the federal systems and the nature of their constitutions only after the central organs of government have been passed in review, or for treating the central government of the Union of South Africa in the second volume instead of in the first. A systematic treatise should be systematic.

There are serious deficiencies in the mechanical apparatus. The index is principally a catalogue of proper names—Daglish, Dalgety, Dailey, Darling, Davey, Davies etc. One looks under “constitution” and finds one solitary, futile reference. Under “quorum” reference is made to the very inaccurate statement that “a third is about the average number,” while in another part of the book (unnoticed in the index) a reader who is under divine guidance will find what he is looking for. It is surprising too that while in the appendix certain “prerogative instruments” (letters patent, royal instructions etc.) are printed at length, no place has anywhere been found for the Canadian or Australian or South-African constitutions.

In a revision of the present edition numerous corrections of style must be made. Some sentences are long and involved; some are all but unintelligible. For instance, reference is made to the “Ontario House of 106 members, one for each seat” (page 477). Or again (page 481): “There are now ninety electorates, each returning one member; the number has reached 141, was then in 1902 reduced to 125, and further reduction is possible.” Or again (page 771): “There is no chance of such disadvantages resulting as have resulted in the United States, where the Federal Government has admittedly too little power to enforce matters of external affairs affecting the subjects committed by the constitution to the provinces, as was seen in the affair of the riots at Vancouver.” There is no need to multiply illustrations. Suffice it to say that, while under any circumstances Mr. Keith's volumes will have a wide use and a high reputation, it is very desirable that some of the superficial faults should be remedied.

E. M. SAIT.